

A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A LATERALLY
DIFFUSED METAL OXIDE SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

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**A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A Laterally
DIFFUSED METAL OXIDE SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO PROVISIONAL APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional
5 Application No. 60/174,566, entitled "INTEGRATED CIRCUIT AND A
METHOD OF MAKING AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT," to Charles Walter Pearce,
filed on January 5, 2000, which is commonly assigned with the
present invention and incorporated herein by reference as if
reproduced herein in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed, in general, to a
semiconductor device and, more specifically, to a method of
manufacturing a laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor
(LDMOS) device and an integrated circuit associated therewith.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Power semiconductor devices are currently being used in many
applications, either as discrete components or integrated with

other transistors as an integrated circuit. Such power devices include high-voltage integrated circuits which typically include one or more high-voltage transistors, often on the same chip as low-voltage circuitry. A commonly used high-voltage component for these circuits is a laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) transistor. High-power applications have called for the use of such lateral double diffused MOS transistors primarily because they possess lower "on" resistance, R_{DS} (on), faster switching speed, and lower gate drive power dissipation than their bipolar counterparts. However, these devices have heretofore also been strongly associated with bi-polar based process flows when integrated into a Bi-CMOS environment.

LDMOS transistors used in the high-voltage integrated circuits may generally be fabricated using some of the same techniques used to fabricate low voltage circuitry or logic circuitry. In general, LDMOS structures are fabricated in a thick epitaxial layer of the same or opposite conductivity type as the substrate. The epitaxial layer helps to equally distribute the applied drain voltage laterally across the silicon surface.

Typically, in a step subsequent to the formation of the epitaxial layer, a gate structure is formed over the epitaxial layer and a drain region dopant is laterally diffused under the gate structure. Diffusing the drain region dopant generally

requires a masking step that masks all regions of the device except for the drain region and the gate structure. In addition to laterally diffusing the drain region dopant, a source region dopant is laterally diffused under the other side of the gate structure.

5 An additional masking step, similar to the masking step previously described, is also required when laterally diffusing the source region dopant. Subsequent to laterally diffusing the source and drain region dopants, a higher concentration dopant may be diffused within the device.

10 The previously described method of manufacturing an LDMOS device is extensively used and well accepted, however, it may be very time consuming and costly. More specifically, it is known that the multiple masking steps required to laterally diffuse the source and drain region dopants may be time consuming and costly.

15 Accordingly, what is needed in the art is a method of manufacturing an LDMOS device that does not experience the time and cost issues associated with the prior art methods of manufacturing LDMOS devices.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

To address the above-discussed deficiencies of the prior art, the present invention provides a method of manufacturing a laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device, and an integrated circuit associated therewith. The method includes forming a lightly-doped source/drain region with a first dopant, the lightly-doped source/drain region located between first and second isolation structures. The method further includes creating a gate over the lightly-doped source/drain region. In one advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the method further includes diffusing a second dopant at least partially across the lightly-doped source/drain region and under the gate to form a first portion of a channel.

The present invention therefore introduces a method for manufacturing an LDMOS device, which does not experience many of the time and cost issues associated with the prior art LDMOS devices. More specifically, using the present method, the LDMOS may be manufactured using a reduced number of costly masking steps.

The foregoing has outlined, rather broadly, preferred and alternative features of the present invention so that those skilled in the art may better understand the detailed description of the invention that follows. Additional features of the invention will

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is best understood from the following detailed description when read with the accompanying FIGURES. It is emphasized that in accordance with the standard practice in the semiconductor industry the various features are not drawn to scale. In fact, the dimensions of the various features may be arbitrarily increased or reduced for clarity of discussion. Reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a completed LDMOS device manufactured by the method described herein;

FIGURE 2 illustrates a partially completed LDMOS device including a semiconductor substrate;

FIGURE 3 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device illustrated in FIGURE 2, after forming a lightly-doped source/drain region using a first dopant;

FIGURE 4 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device illustrated in FIGURE 3, after formation of a conventional gate, including a gate oxide and poly gate;

FIGURE 5 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device illustrated in FIGURE 4, including a photoresist portion located

over a portion of the gate and a drain side of the LDMOS device,
and the final portion of a second dopant after diffusion;

FIGURE 6 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device
illustrated in FIGURE 5, after placing a heavy concentration of the
5 first dopant in a region adjacent a source side of the gate, and in
the lightly-doped source/drain region adjacent a drain side of the
gate; and

FIGURE 7 illustrates a completed integrated circuit, which
represents one environment in which the previously described method
of manufacturing a LDMOS device could be used.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring initially to FIGURE 1, illustrated is a cross-sectional view of a completed laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device 100 manufactured by the method described herein. The LDMOS device 100 includes a semiconductor wafer 105, a semiconductor substrate 110, first and second isolation structures 115 and source and drain regions 122, 124, respectively. The LDMOS device 100 further includes a first portion of a channel 125. Further included in the LDMOS device 100 is a gate 130, including a gate oxide 140 and poly gate 150. It should be noted that the semiconductor substrate 110 may be any layer located in the LDMOS device 100, including the semiconductor wafer 105 or a layer located above the semiconductor wafer 105.

The LDMOS device 100 manufactured according to the method described below does not experience the time and expense issues associated with an LDMOS device 100 manufactured using prior art methods. More specifically, the LDMOS device 100 may be manufactured using less semiconductor masking steps than used in the prior art processes. Moreover, the method is easy to adapt to the current manufacturing process and is scalable to smaller dimension devices.

Turning to FIGURES 2-6, illustrated are various stages of manufacture of the completed LDMOS device 100 illustrated in FIGURE

1. FIGURE 2 illustrates a partially completed LDMOS device 200, including a semiconductor substrate 210. Located within the semiconductor substrate 210 are first and second isolation structures 215, formed in a prior step not shown. As illustrated, the isolation structures are field oxides, however, it should be noted that any known or hereinafter discovered isolation structure 215 could be used. Depending on whether the partially completed LDMOS device 200 is going to be a laterally diffused P-type metal oxide semiconductor (LDPMOS) device or a laterally diffused N-type metal oxide semiconductor (LDNMOS) device, the semiconductor substrate 210 is conventionally doped with phosphorous or boron, respectively. As illustrated, the semiconductor substrate 210 is a P-type doped semiconductor substrate.

Turning to FIGURE 3, illustrated is the partially completed LDMOS device 200 illustrated in FIGURE 2, after forming a lightly-doped source/drain region 310 using a first dopant. As illustrated, the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 is located between the first and second isolation structures 215. In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 is achieved by a blanket implant (i.e., no masking steps required) over the entire semiconductor substrate.

210. In contrast to the prior art, the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 is formed prior to a gate formation.

In the illustrative embodiment where the semiconductor substrate 210 is a p-type semiconductor substrate, the first dopant is an N-type dopant, such as phosphorous. It should be noted, however, that the inverse also holds true, and is within the scope of the present invention. It is desired for the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 to have an implant dose ranging from about $1\text{E}12$ atoms/cm² to about $1\text{E}13$ atoms/cm², however, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 has an implant dose of about $5\text{E}12$ atoms/cm². In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the lightly-doped source/drain region has a depth of about 3000 nm.

Turning now to FIGURE 4, illustrated is the partially completed LDMOS device 200 illustrated in FIGURE 3, after formation of a conventional gate 410, including a gate oxide 415 and poly gate 420. Forming the gate 410 uses many conventional processes known to those skilled in the art, including forming a blanket gate oxide layer and a blanket poly gate layer, depositing and patterning photoresist over the blanket poly gate layer, and etching those areas unprotected by photoresist to form the gate 410. Since many of the methods used to form the gate 410 are

conventional, many of the other details regarding the formation of the gate 410 have been omitted.

Turning to FIGURE 5, illustrated is the partially completed LDMOS device 200 illustrated in FIGURE 4, including a photoresist portion 510 located over a portion of the gate 410, and a drain side 520 of the LDMOS device 200, and the final portion of a second dopant 530 after diffusion. One having skill in the art knows that to form the photoresist portion 510, a layer of photoresist material is conventionally deposited over the surface of the LDMOS device 200, patterned by exposing certain portions of the photoresist layer to radiation, and washed leaving the photoresist portion 510.

After formation of the photoresist portion 510, the second dopant 530 may be diffused within an unprotected region (e.g., a source side 540 of the LDMOS device 200), and at least partially across the lightly-doped source/drain region 310. As illustrated, a portion of the second dopant may diffuse under the gate 410, forming a first portion of the channel 550. In the situation described above where the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 includes a first N-type dopant, the second dopant 530 may comprise a P-type dopant. In an exemplary embodiment, the second dopant 530 has an implant dose ranging from about $1E13$ atoms/cm² to about $1E14$ atoms/cm². It should be noted, however, that the implant dose may

vary, but should be about 100 times higher than the implant dose of the first dopant.

Turning to FIGURE 6, illustrated is the partially completed LDMOS device 200 illustrated in FIGURE 5, after placing a heavy concentration of the first dopant 610 in a region adjacent the source side 540 of the gate 410, and in the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 adjacent the drain side 520 of the gate 410. As illustrated, a photoresist portion 620 may be formed over a portion of the gate 410 and a portion of the drain side 520 of the gate 410, prior to diffusing the heavy concentration of the first dopant 610. In such an instance, the heavy concentration of the first dopant 610 is placed in the lightly-doped source/drain region 310 a distance ranging from about 2000 nm to about 3000 nm from the drain side 520 of the gate 410. In an exemplary embodiment the heavy concentration 610 has an implant dose ranging from about $1E15$ atoms/cm² to about $1E16$ atoms/cm². After removing the photoresist portion 620, a device, similar to the LDMOS device 100 illustrated in FIGURE 1, is achieved.

Turning briefly to FIGURE 7, with continued reference to FIGURE 1, illustrated is a completed integrated circuit 700, which represents one environment in which the previously described method of manufacturing a LDMOS device 100 could be used. The integrated circuit 700 may include laterally diffused metal oxide

semiconductor (LDMOS) devices, traditional CMOS devices, bipolar CMOS (BiCMOS) devices, dynamic random access memory (DRAM) devices, electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM) devices, including Flash EEPROMs, or any other type of similar device. Also shown in one advantageous embodiment of the integrated circuit 700, are components of the integrated circuit 700, including: isolation structures 115, the source region 122, the drain region 124, the channel 125, and the gate 130. Also included in the completed integrated circuit 700 are dielectric layers 710, and interconnect structures 720 located within the dielectric layers 710, connecting the LDMOS devices 100 to form an operational integrated circuit 700.

Although the present invention has been described in detail, those skilled in the art should understand that they can make various changes, substitutions and alterations herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention in its broadest form.